



January 7, 2003 ... Volume 4, Issue 1

BUSALACCHI IN DRIVERS' SEAT AT WISDOT

Incoming Governor Jim Doyle recently named Frank Busalacchi of Brookfield as Wisconsin's new Secretary of Transportation. Prior to the appointment, Secretary Busalacchi served as secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 200. He was president of the Summerfest Board of Directors in Milwaukee, and was appointed by Governor Thompson as Construction Committee Chairman for the Miller Park Baseball Stadium construction project in 1994. Secretary Busalacchi is a member of both the SEWRPC Regional Freeway System Advisory Committee and the Greater Milwaukee Committee.

ROMANSKI NAMED EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Secretary Busalacchi has named Randy Romanski as WisDOT's new Executive Assistant. Romanski comes to WisDOT from the Department of Justice, where he served as a spokesperson and policy analyst. He served previously as Chief of Staff for State Senator Alice Clausen, and as a legislative assistant for State Representative Al Baldus. Romanski is a 1989 graduate of UW-River Falls and has a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration from UW-Madison's Robert M. LaFollette Institute of Public Affairs. He and his wife live in Monona with their two children. Romanski will work with state legislators and other external stakeholders to discuss department projects and programs and gain their input into transportation initiatives.

FATALITIES 2nd HIGHEST SINCE 1989

The year 2002 left Wisconsin with a preliminary count of 800 traffic fatalities, the second highest total since 1989 and only one behind the fatality count for the year 2000. The 2002 total is about 7% higher than the previous five-year average.

Alcohol and speed continue to be major factors in traffic deaths. Through the first nine months of the year, alcohol was involved in 39% of fatalities, while speed was a factor in 30% of deaths.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 18 - Env. Justice workshop, Milwaukee

Mar 31 / Apr 1 - Aviation conference, Middleton

EXAMINING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

WisDOT is planning an upcoming workshop titled "Environmental Justice: All voices build better transportation solutions." The event will bring together community action teams, minority commerce leaders, neighborhood organizations, low-income population advocates, contractors, consultants and local and state government staff to learn how to participate in a meaningful way in the transportation decision-making process.

The concept of environmental justice is to identify and address effects of programs, policies and projects on minority and low-income populations. The conference will educate participants on the environmental justice process, show how local organizations can participate in transportation planning processes, and help agencies build partnerships for future regular participation.

The all-day workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 18, at the UW-Milwaukee Center for Continuing Education at 161 W. Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Milwaukee. For registration materials or more information, contact WisDOT's Amanda Riddell at (262) 548-6460, or visit the Internet at www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/events/envjustice/index.htm.

SPECIAL EDITIONS ON THEIR WAY

Watch for two special editions of the *Connector Express* later this month: (1) a U.S. Congressional update, listing leaders and Wisconsin membership on committees related to transportation; and (2) a state legislative update, with full membership rosters for transportation-related committees. Both editions should serve as handy references.

The WisDOT Connector Express is produced by:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Phone: (608) 266-3581
Fax: (608) 266-7186
E-mail: opa.exec@dot.state.wi.us
Web site: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov>